MARVEL REMEMBERS

TOM PALMER
1941–2022

"Yet another comic legend has left us. Aside from being an incredible inker and painter, Tom was a true gentleman. He was like Obi-Wan to so many young editors and artists, freely sharing his experiences and wisdom with us all. Rest in peace, Tom."

—C.B. CEBULSKI

Druig, the Prime Eternal, unleashed the **Hex**, giant Eternals, to attack the mutant nation of **Krakoa**, triggering war. A faction of **Eternals** opposed to Druig's plan worked together with the Avengers and the kidnapped mutant geneticist, **Mr. Sinister**. Together, they used the Avengers' headquarters, the deceased body of a Celestial, to create a new, living god--the **Progenitor**. However, once awakened, the Progenitor passed judgment upon all those on Earth and set out to destroy the planet.

The **Avengers**, **X-Men** and **Eternals** united to stop the Progenitor. In an attempt to redeem herself to the Progenitor, **Sersi** revealed to everyone on Earth that every time an Eternal is resurrected, a human dies. But the Progenitor simply killed her in response. **Ajak** then challenged the Progenitor to judge itself. Finding itself lacking, the Progenitor ceased its destruction and transferred its powers to Ajak, transforming her into **Ajak Celestia**. **Zuras** then assumed leadership of the Eternals and brokered peace with the mutants while the X-Men promised to share their resurrection protocols with worthy humans.

AVENGERS · X-MEN · ETERNALS

JUDGMENT DAY

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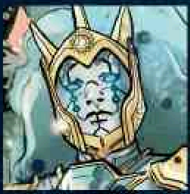
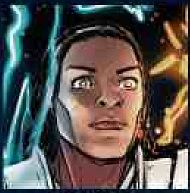
CELESTIALS

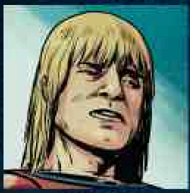


AJAK CELESTIA

ETERNALS



MAKKARI



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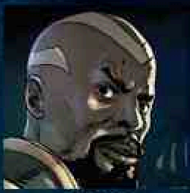

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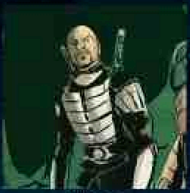

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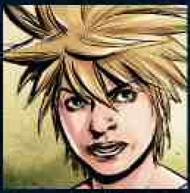

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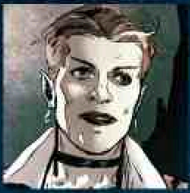

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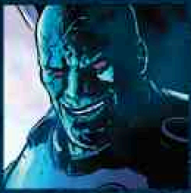
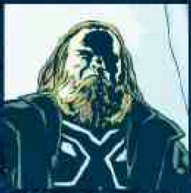


URANOS

DRUIG



ZURAS

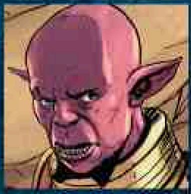
THENA

X-MEN

WOLVERINE

DOUG RAMSEY

DEVIANTS



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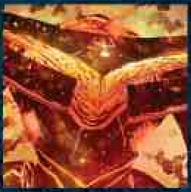
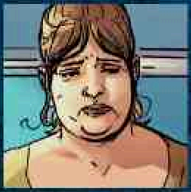
THE HEX



SYNE
THE MEMOTAUR

CIVILIANS



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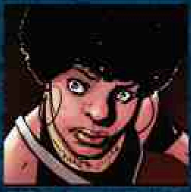
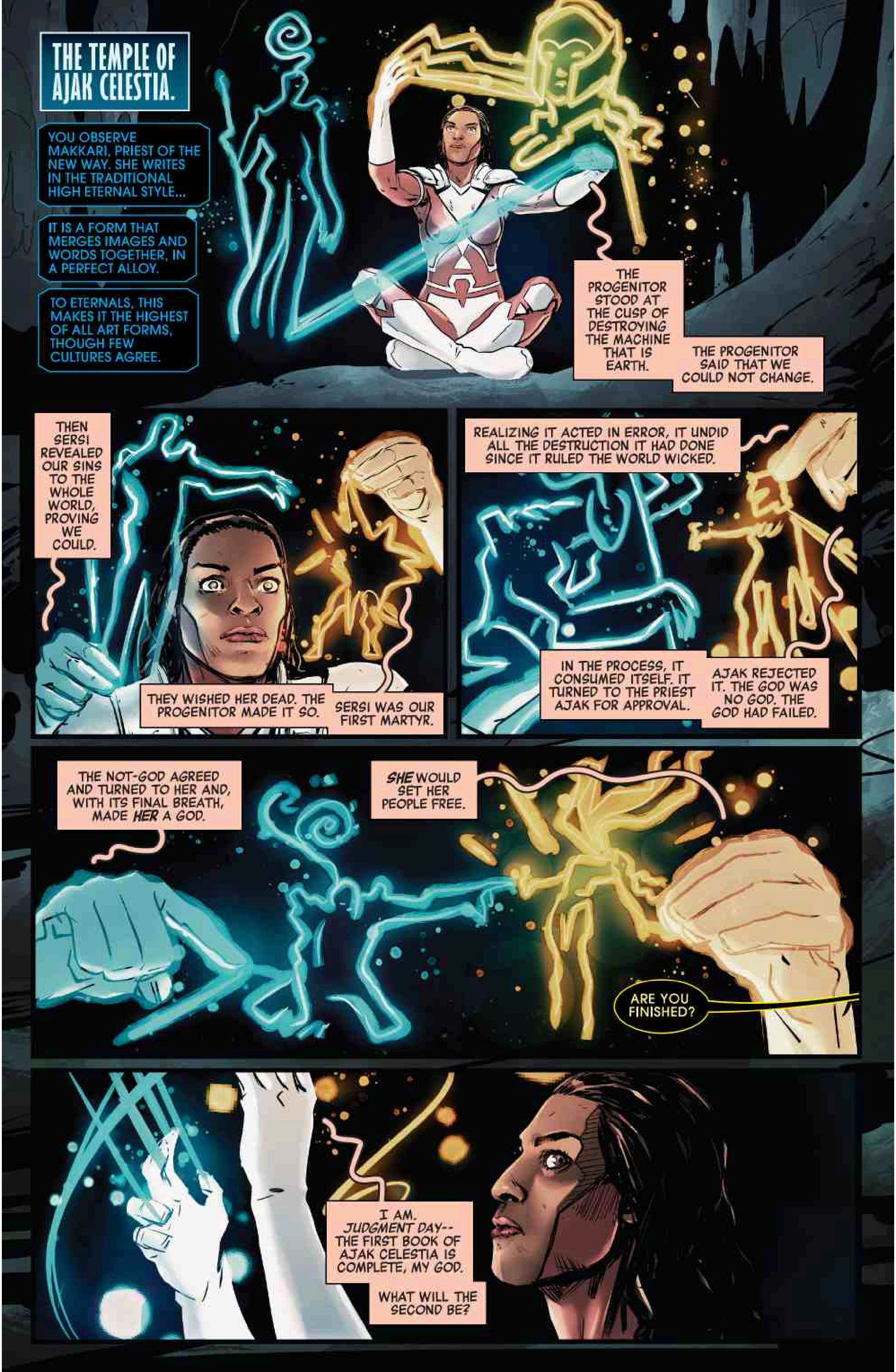


SALLY

AVENGERS · X-MEN · ETERNALS

JUDGMENT DAY


THE TEMPLE OF AJAK CELESTIA.
YOU OBSERVE MAKKARI, PRIEST OF THE NEW WAY. SHE WRITES IN THE TRADITIONAL HIGH ETERNAL STYLE...
IT IS A FORM THAT MERGES IMAGES AND WORDS TOGETHER, IN A PERFECT ALLOY.
TO ETERNALS, THIS MAKES IT THE HIGHEST OF ALL ART FORMS, THOUGH FEW CULTURES AGREE.
THE PROGENITOR STOOD AT THE CUSP OF DESTROYING THE MACHINE THAT IS EARTH.
THE PROGENITOR SAID THAT WE COULD NOT CHANGE.
THEN SERSI REVEALED OUR SINS TO THE WHOLE WORLD, PROVING WE COULD.
THEY WISHED HER DEAD. THE PROGENITOR MADE IT SO.
SERSI WAS OUR FIRST MARTYR.
REALIZING IT ACTED IN ERROR, IT UNDID ALL THE DESTRUCTION IT HAD DONE SINCE IT RULED THE WORLD WICKED.
IN THE PROCESS, IT CONSUMED ITSELF. IT TURNED TO THE PRIEST AJAK FOR APPROVAL.
AJAK REJECTED IT. THE GOD WAS NO GOD. THE GOD HAD FAILED.
THE NOT-GOD AGREED AND TURNED TO HER AND, WITH ITS FINAL BREATH, MADE HER A GOD.
SHE WOULD SET HER PEOPLE FREE.
ARE YOU FINISHED?
I AM. JUDGMENT DAY-- THE FIRST BOOK OF AJAK CELESTIA IS COMPLETE, MY GOD.
WHAT WILL THE SECOND BE?

HERESY.

PRIME ETERNAL DAILY PRIMER #3,652,616,836

I have resumed my position as Prime Eternal. I will be clearing up this mess as quickly as possible.

- Eros is a true Eternal and is to be treated as such. His position is Pope-Minister for Change. He will be advising me during this period.
- The secret of resurrection is no longer a secret. All plans to make it a secret again are rejected. Our name is bad enough without any half-thought-out brainwashing schemes. It's likely their civilization will collapse in a few thousand years at most and they'll forget again. We can wait.
- We are in a state of alliance with the Krakoan and Arakkii "mutants," with various specific promises. Any Eternals acting against them, for any reason, will be Excluded. This is especially directed at the Tricks. I have seen you eyeing mysterium. No. Absolutely not.
- Similarly, we have reparations to make to the human governments. This includes access to energy sources and certain technology. The latter is their greed: They won't be able to understand anything. The former is acceptable: We can spare a little clean energy to people who can't even reliably create fusion.
- Key idea: We have made mistakes here. We must be better.
- Druig has been Excluded. I told you so.
- Ajak's theses are self-admitted heresies. Anyone who follows her places themselves outside our society, and if their actions interfere with our principles, they will be captured and Excluded.
- The Machine was reset in the process of saving the planet. The changes were not reversed by the Celestial, presumably because it was the action of Phastos, not an act by its own hand. This is for the best: It does seem to have cleared up some of the recent bugs.

That's all. Get to work.

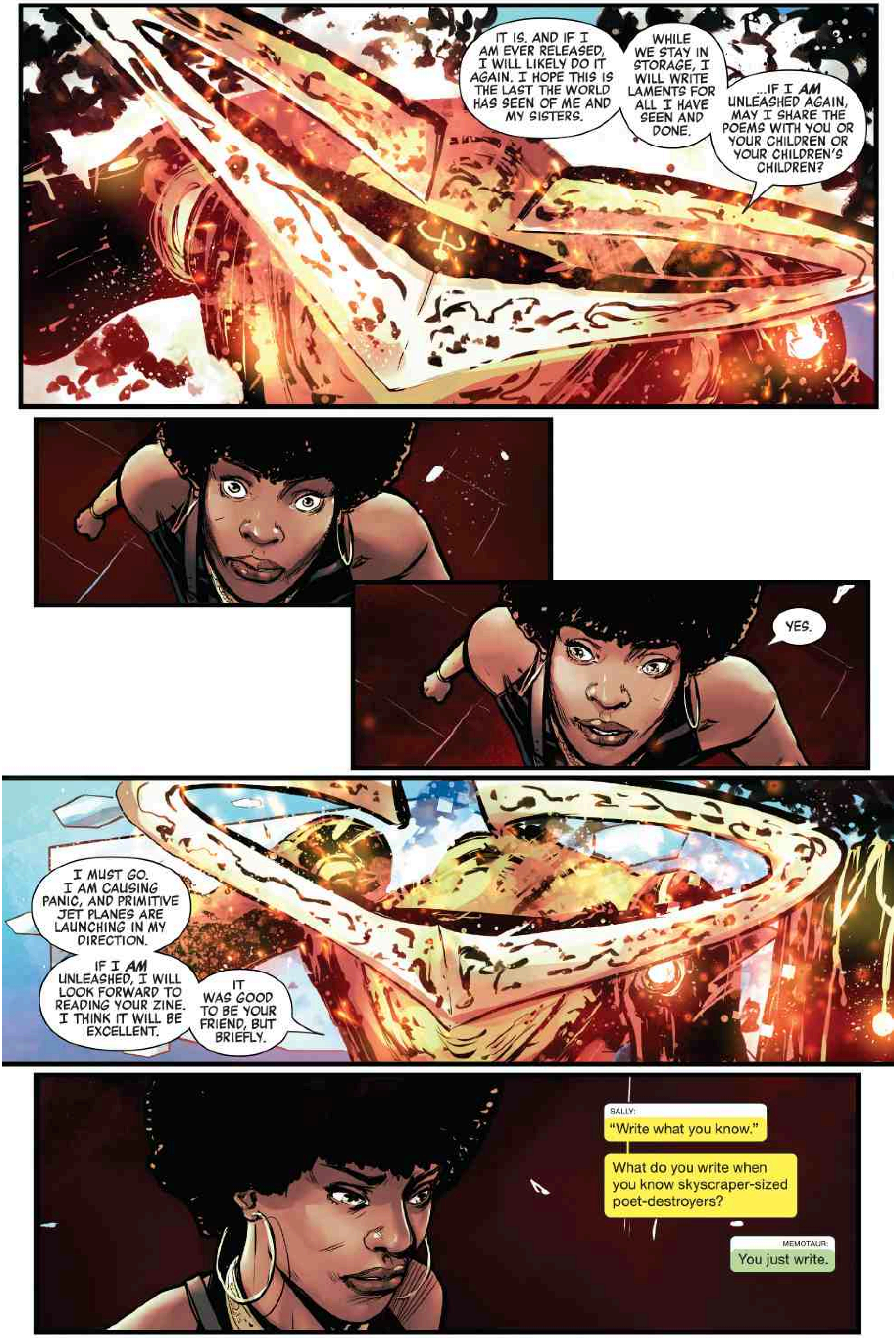
Zuras, Prime Eternal

NEW YORK.
I...DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
NOT YET...
...IT'S TOO BIG TO EVEN THINK ABOUT. TOBY MUST HAVE...BEEN ONE OF THE DEATHS.
TAKEN BY THEM. KILLED. I...
RRRNG
I HAVE TO GO.

I DIDN'T KNOW.

ARGGHH!
YOU HAVE HURT YOURSELF.
YES, I &%#%$ HAVE.
CAN I DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU?
NO MORE THAN I ALREADY AM.
YOU CAN CARRY ON IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER.
IT DOESN'T.
...DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?
NO.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

LONDON.
HELLO, SALLY.
I MUST RETURN TO THE ARMORY...BUT BEFORE I DO, I PLAN TO SPEAK TO CERTAIN HUMANS. THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES I STOLE. THIS WILL NOT BE PLEASANT.
SPEAKING TO YOU IS... BETTER.
IT WAS NICE TO MEET YOU. I LIKE YOUR POETRY.
PLEASE, DO THE ZINE.
YOU'RE A KILLER. AND WHEN YOU DIE, YOU KILL PEOPLE. AND...
...I SAW THE FOOTAGE OF WHAT YOU DID TO THE MUTANTS. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU JOINED UP WITH THEM AT THE LAST MINUTE. YOU STILL DID *THAT.*
THAT'S SOME $%@#& UP @#$%.


IT IS. AND IF I AM EVER RELEASED, I WILL LIKELY DO IT AGAIN. I HOPE THIS IS THE LAST THE WORLD HAS SEEN OF ME AND MY SISTERS.
WHILE WE STAY IN STORAGE, I WILL WRITE LAMENTS FOR ALL I HAVE SEEN AND DONE.
...IF I AM UNLEASHED AGAIN, MAY I SHARE THE POEMS WITH YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN OR YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN?
YES.
I MUST GO. I AM CAUSING PANIC, AND PRIMITIVE JET PLANES ARE LAUNCHING IN MY DIRECTION.
IF I AM UNLEASHED, I WILL LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR ZINE. I THINK IT WILL BE EXCELLENT.
IT WAS GOOD TO BE YOUR FRIEND, BUT BRIEFLY.
SALLY:
"Write what you know."
What do you write when you know skyscraper-sized poet-destroyers?
MEMOTAUR:
You just write.

THE TEMPLE OF AJAK CELESTIA.
ARE YOU JOINING US, EROS?
NO, PHASTOS. I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON. I NEED TO WORK WITH ZURAS. I AM TO SAVE OUR WHOLE PEOPLE. I CAN'T JUST ABANDON THEM.
PLUS, MY PARENTS NEED TO BE FREED. PERHAPS A NEW TITAN? WE'LL SEE.
IT IS UP TO YOU LOT TO PROVE THIS NEW WAY CAN WORK. I WISH YOU LUCK. IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE THERE...
...BUT I HAVE TO BE HONEST. SHE SCARES THE LIVING HELL OUT OF ME.
SHE SCARES ME TOO...YET STILL I'M HERE, FILLING OUT THE CROWD SCENE.
NOW YOU BE HONEST, PHASTOS.
DO YOU THINK WE HAVE A SHOT TO CHANGE ANYTHING?
HMMM...
...SERSI IS DEAD. THE MACHINE CAN'T RETURN HER.
THAT ALONE SHOULD HAVE DESTABILIZED IT AND LED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLANET.
IT HASN'T.

THAT IS A MIRACLE AND CHANGE ENOUGH TO BEGIN WITH...
...AND WE CAN HOPE FOR MORE.
I ALSO HOPED FOR MORE...
...NO GILGAMESH OR THE FORGOTTEN?
THEY CANNOT LET GO OF VENGEANCE. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO POLICE THE ETERNALS.
THEY DON'T TRUST *ANY* CELESTIAL.
GOOD. IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE TOO MUCH FAITH IN AN UNPROVEN GOD. THEY SHOULD WATCH ME CLOSELY.
YOU ALL SHOULD.

SERSI WAS A MARTYR...AND A DEEPLY FLAWED VESSEL. THAT IS THE POINT.
WE WERE NOT MADE PERFECT. WE WERE JUST MADE ETERNAL.
IF ***SHE*** COULD TRANSCEND HER NATURE, WE LIVE IN HOPE OF A SIMILAR MIRACLE FOR US.
I MUST BE A BETTER GOD.
YOU MUST BE BETTER ETERNALS.
WE WILL DISCOVER WHAT THAT MEANS.
SO... WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE TO *DO*, OH, BIG, FANCY, SPARKLY NEW GOD?
THE HUMANS HATE US AND RIGHTLY SO.
WE OWE THEM OUR LIVES. THEY SHALL HAVE THEM.
OUR EXISTENCE IS PENANCE. WALK AMONG THEM. KNOW THEM.
IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES, MY HERETICS...

AJAK CELESTIA'S THESES ON THE PRINCIPLES

In his famous work, Uranos described us as cowards, hiding from the principles' true implications. I would disagree. His was an act of sophism, claiming to know the mind of god. However, his sophism is something we all share, to a greater or lesser degree. We have viewed the principles as the wholeness of our purpose. They are simply limitations, which we have spun into philosophy.

Watch as I do so too.

PROTECT CELESTIALS:

We are unable to attack Celestials--and, yes, you would be unable to attack me. This is them simply trying to prevent us acting against them.

However, if we look at Judgment Day, we realize: We should also protect Celestials from themselves. That Celestials can be foul is one reason I am trying to free us.

PROTECT THE MACHINE:

The Machine is the system of Eternals, of the machine, of the planet. This means that we are all a society. We should protect one another.

CORRECT EXCESS DEVIATION:

We must physiologically act to remove a dangerous predator from the environment. This teaches us that we should protect the weak from the dangerous.

YOU HAVE 24 HOURS TO JUSTIFY YOURSELF:

The principle burned into us by the mad god of judgment. But there is a lesson even here.

Every day matters, and we should act like it.

We should act where we can, as often as we can.

IN CONCLUSION:

My heresy: The principles are not enough.

I cannot free us from them, not yet.

One day, I will. We can work to get there together.

Until then, join me.

ABOVE ALL,

BE PRINCIPLED.

THE EXCLUSION.
REPEAT THAT, ZURAS...
...I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER DRUIG'S SCREAMING.
AS PART OF THE PEACE TREATY, THE ARAKKII--THE MARTIAN MUTANTS--WILL HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR... GIFTS FOR AN HOUR, AT A TIME AND PLACE OF THEIR CHOOSING.
SO... YOU PLAN TO LET ME OUT AGAIN.
YOU WILL BE IN SERVITUDE AND BOUND TO THOSE WHO HATE YOU.
BUT I WILL BE OUT.
AND, UNTIL THEN, I HAVE A TOY TO PASS THE TIME.
THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A HAPPY ENDING.

LEMURIA.
So, you're moving out of our glorious, thriving metropolis?
YES. IT IS SAFER FOR YOU ALL...BUT WE'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US. THAT'S PART OF OUR PENANCE TOO.
...WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IT'S STRANGE. BEAUTIFUL, BUT STRANGE...
It's prayer.
It's a new fashion among us now. It is awful to be loved by a god. It gives us funny ideas.
Like a new god who can save us all...
Do you think Ajak will end the curse? Free us from the Excess Deviation?
YES, IF SHE CAN FIND A WAY. AND IF NOT, WE WILL, EVENTUALLY.
YOU HAVE MY WORD. I WILL NOT REST. MY LIFE EXISTS TO SERVE.
Heh. Always so serious, Thena. You may wish to change, but don't change that.
Your sincerity is part of your charm.
SO, UNLIKE SERSI.
DID YOU LOVE HER?

I don't know.
If you fall for an Eternal, you always presume you'll be the one to die first. It removes the pressure a little.
You know you won't be the one watching them drift away, trying to be brave...
What an awful thing to admit.
I wish I was there when it happened. But also...
...I barely had time to get to know her. Who truly knows anyone?
We've had twenty thousand years, on and off, and our love is still a labyrinth.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER GET BACK TOGETHER?
Probably.
Let's hope not.
YES.
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE, IT WOULD BE GOOD TO MOVE ON.

KRAKOA.
GET THE HELL AWAY, EVERYONE!
WE GOT ANOTHER DAMN VISITOR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU DO KNOW ETERNALS AREN'T EXACTLY POPULAR AROUND HERE.
WE'RE NOT POPULAR ANYWHERE, AND RIGHTLY SO.
I AM A LOWLY HERETIC. I AM ON PILGRIMAGE AND A PENANCE.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM ONE OLD FRIEND TO ANOTHER.
THE MACHINE THAT IS EARTH WIPED ITS MIND. THE BEING IT WAS IS GONE.
BUT IT LEFT A MESSAGE FOR KRAKOA.

PLEASE ADD MY OWN SYMPATHIES.
I THINK OF MY OWN LOSSES. MEN I HAVE HELD AND TIME HAS TAKEN FROM ME.
IT IS NOT EASY.
I UNDERSTAND. LET ME READ...
OH.
THANK YOU.
WHAT DID IT SAY?
IT'S COMPLICATED.
CELESTIALS ARRIVED ON EARTH A MILLION YEARS AGO...
THEY TRANSFORMED HUMANS INTO ETERNALS AND DEVIANTS, USING THEM AS TEMPLATES.
THEY ALSO CREATED THE MACHINE ITSELF. THEY LOOKED FOR AN INSPIRATION FOR A HUGE SENTIENT SYSTEM THAT RUNS THROUGH THE VERY PLANET...
...AND THEY FOUND A LIVING ISLAND, ALREADY HERE. THEY USED IT AS THE TEMPLATE FOR THE MACHINE.
WHAT DID THE MESSAGE SAY?
"GOODBYE, MOMMY/DADDY/ SELF/OTHER."

COME IN. AND DON'T ASK AGAIN.
YES, YOU CAN STAY, IKARIS. I NEED A LODGER.
I DO HAVE A SPARE ROOM.
GOD, NO. NOT HIS.
THAT WOULD BE WEIRDER. WEIRDER THAN THIS, EVEN.
THANK YOU, SOPHIA ROBSON OF EARTH. BUT...
...YOUR NEIGHBORS WILL HATE YOU IF THEY REALIZE WHO I AM. YOU WILL HOUSE A KILLER OF THEIR PEOPLE.
THEN DON'T LET THEM FIND OUT. AND @#$% THEM IF THEY DO. WE ALL DEAL WITH GRIEF IN OUR OWN WAY.
MAYBE ME SEEING YOU DOING STUFF WILL HELP. GIVE IT A REASON. MEANING. I DON'T KNOW.
SO... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
IT IS SIMPLE...

"...EVERYTHING I CAN."
$%&%!
PLEASE SAY THAT YOU REPLACED THE SPARE.
I CAN SAY IT, BUT IT WON'T MAKE IT APPEAR...
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
BLOWN TIRE.
AH.
I HAVE ONE HERE. LET ME HELP. GO GET IN SHELTER.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR US ALL TO GET WET.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED A HAND?
NO. I AM CAPABLE.
ONE SECOND...
IT IS DONE. TRAVEL ONWARD.
OKAY-- GIVE ME YOUR NUMBER. I NEED TO SEND YOU MONEY FOR THE TIRE...
DON'T BOTHER. IF YOU MUST, GIVE IT TO CHARITY.
OR HELP SOMEONE. REMEMBER KINDNESS IN THE RAIN, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.
WELL, I'LL CERTAINLY REMEMBER THE MELODRAMATIC GUY IN THE RAIN. THANK YOU.
AREN'T YOU THE REGULAR GUARDIAN ANGEL?
YES. THAT IS THE IDEA.
WAIT...
...HE DIDN'T HAVE A JACK.
THE HERETICS WALK AMONG YOU.

THEY PROTECT YOU.
IF THEY DIE, THEY KILL YOU.
THEY ARE ETERNAL...
...AND AMONG THE THINGS THAT ARE ETERNAL...
...IS SHAME.

SO, THE MACHINE CONTINUES.
THE HERETICS AND THE ORTHODOX, TOGETHER AND APART.
PLUS, THE MACHINE THAT IS EARTH IS FULLY OPERATIONAL.
NO MALFUNCTION REMAINS.
:)
END.

NEXT

See how the events of A.X.E. will reverberate throughout the Marvel Universe in…

ZONE